

What Are Your Credentials?

Scripture: Exodus 3:7 – 15

1/22/23 - Installation Service for 2023

I watch many news programs and talk shows. Do you watch a lot of news programs and talk shows?

Each time a new guest appears, the host introduces him or her by listing their position, accomplishments, and credentials. In doing so, the host is setting the stage for the discussion. The host is telling the viewer why a guest's insight is important. That's the host job – give the credentials of their guest. The guest is given credence before he or she utters a word!

In today's scripture reading, we find an instance where Moses asked for the speaker's credentials. Moses asked the burning bush for its credentials in order to make a proper introduction to the people not on the mountain. Moses asks God for his credentials. Can you believe that – in our scripture reading today Moses ask God – What is your credentials? I find this fact utterly mind blowing to ask God for his credentials.

While Moses was in the presence of God at the burning bush, Moses asked for God's credentials. While Moses was being commissioned by God to go and lead God's people out of bondage in Egypt, Moses asked God for his credentials. Moses asked God what he should say when the Israelites would ask him who gave these orders. To this request, God responded – *I AM WHO I AM!*

Did you get that – God's credentials are - *I AM WHO I AM!* God is completely qualified to do all things. Oh yes, God could have given Moses a long list of accomplishments, but all God gave for his credentials is five words - *I AM WHO I AM!*

Oh, God could have said just – I am God, but instead of stating his position he said five words - *I AM WHO I AM!* And in those five words – it says it all!

To me, it sounds like God is talking like one of cartoon heroes from my childhood. It sounds like God is ‘Popeye the Sailorman’! Popeye would say all the time – ‘I yam what I yam, and that’s all that I yam!’ If you do not know who Popeye the Sailorman is, google it!

You know if I was conducting an interview process for a job or position and a person came in for the job or position and I ask them for their credentials and he/she said – ‘I am who I am!’ – I would laugh at his/her. What kind of credentials is – ‘I am who I am!’?

So what are your credentials? If I was the host of a talk show how would I introduce you? What is your position, accomplishments, and credentials?

I am not a talk show host but I am the pastor of this church. As I start my fourth year as your pastor, two of which was under Covid 19 protocol, I may still not know your credentials and you may not know mine!

So what is your position, accomplishments, and credentials within this shared ministry? How many words would it take to state your credentials?

I need to know your credentials so that you can help our shared ministry here at the Bethany Beach Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I have come up with a six words for your credentials to serve this church. These six words are – *I AM A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST!* Let me repeat that - *I AM A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST!*

So let me read our 2023 officers and if I read your name and position in the church, please stand where you are and you should say your credentials - *I AM A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST!*

(Read 2023 Church Officers and position)

Now having introduced each leader in our church and having each of them state their credentials to serve this church and its shared ministry; I ask the congregation of the Bethany Beach Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to make the following pledge:

To support our leadership, to share the ministry of this Body of Christ with them, to commit to pray for them and ask for God's blessings upon them, and to together support one another in selfish service to our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ? If this is your pledge, say 'WE WILL'

You all may be seated.

Let us pray:

Awesome God, grant each of us an unfailing respect for your name. May we rejoice that you have called us to be your people. Help us to fulfill the mission of this church as we seek to know what faithfulness requires of us. Strengthen the resolve that we have to serve you.

Uphold our leaders with hope and encouragement so that they may endure what ever comes their way. Fill this congregation with your love so that we may work together harmoniously for the common good and for your glory O God.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of this congregation as its pastor, I declare that our 2022 officers are properly installed. May the grace and peace of God be yours in abundance. AMEN.